



NEWS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

THREE MEN INDICTED IN THEFT OF ANHYDROUS AMMONIA TANK, RELATED METH CHARGES

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that three men were indicted by a federal grand jury today for their role in the theft of a 1,000-gallon tank of anhydrous ammonia and a conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

Keith A. Bell, 29, and **William M. Green**, 32, both of Bates City, Mo.; and **James M. Fagan**, 33, of Oak Grove, Mo., were charged in a three-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City today.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that all three defendants conspired to manufacture methamphetamine between May 1, 2002 and August 5, 2002. Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that all three defendants, aiding and abetting each other, stole anhydrous ammonia for the purpose of manufacturing methamphetamine.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Bell** was in possession of a Harrington and Richardson single shot .12 gauge shotgun on August 5, 2002. Possession of any firearm at that time would have been illegal, due to **Bell's** 1992 criminal felony conviction for sexual assault in Lafayette County and his 1997 criminal felony conviction for unlawful use of a weapon in Lafayette County. The indictment replaces a federal criminal complaint against **Bell** on that charge, which was filed on August 6, 2002.

According to Graves, law enforcement officers discovered a 1,000-gallon tank of anhydrous ammonia inside a storage unit rented by **Fagan** at Midwest Mini-Storage in Oak Grove. Officers recognized the tank and trailer as having been stolen from MFA Agri Services in Levasy, Mo., last May. Upon searching the storage unit, Graves said, other items associated with the manufacture of methamphetamine were also discovered.

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ANHYDROUS AMMONIA

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An affidavit filed in support of the original federal complaint against **Bell** says that upon searching **Bell's** home, law enforcement officers discovered a clandestine methamphetamine lab in the basement and three firearms in the bedroom. While officers were at his home, the affidavit says, a vehicle occupied by **Bell** drove up to the front of the residence, stopped abruptly, made a U-turn and accelerated away at a high rate of speed. After a brief pursuit, the vehicle crashed into a ditch and its occupants fled into the woods on foot. **Bell** was apprehended about 20 minutes later.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and are not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney W. Brent Powell. It was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force, the Johnson County Sheriff's Department, the Oak Grove, Mo., Police Department and the Sni Valley Fire Department.
